

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 ABF-01 CIAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4267
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 10004

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, UN, UR, ILO, WHO
SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP: SOVIET PROPOSAL ON UN SYSTEM BUDGETS

REF: STATE 284178, GENEVA 9963, GENEVA 9100

1. US CO-CHAIRMAN CALLED ON SOVIET DCM BORCHTCHEVSKI
TO RESPOND TO SOVIET INITIATIVES. WE TOLD HIM:
(A) WHILE NO TWO COUNTRIES HAVE IDENTICAL VIEWS,
WE AGREE THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN COMMON BETWEEN US AND
SOVIET POSITIONS ON UN BUDGETS; (B) WE THEREFORE
CONSIDER IT USEFUL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS FROM TIME TO
TIME; (C) WE ARE STARTING PROCESS OF CLOSE CONSULTATION
WITH SECRETARIATS, BEGINNING WITH WHO. WE NOTED
LIMITATIONS OF DEALING WITH 1978-79 BUDGET BUT HOPE
TO MAKE REAL START ON 1980-81. TWO SPECIFIC POINTS
WE HAVE MADE WITH WHO SECRETARIAT ARE DESIRABILITY
OF SAVING SOME OF UNPROGRAMMED ALLOCATIONS TO THE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND
REDUCING THE BUDGET BY THE AMOUNTS CONTRIBUTED
BY UNICEF (\$100 THOUSAND) AND THE USSR (AMOUNT STILL
UNKNOWN) FOR THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE.
BORCHTCHEVSKI DID NOT RISE TO THE BAIT OF THE LATTER
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POINT.

2. BORCHTCHEVSKI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR
POSITIVE RESPONSE AND WILLINGNESS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS.
HE REITERATED THAT WE SHOULD COME UP WITH A FIGURE
FOR AN ACCEPTABLE BUDGET INCREASE AND BOTH INDICATE

TO THE SECRETARIAT WHAT THIS FIGURE IS. HE ALSO AGREED THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO WORK IN PARALLEL RATHER THAN TO MAKE JOINT DEMARCHES. WE SAID WE WERE INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH THE SECRETARIATS ON TRYING TO ARRIVE AT AGREED FIGURES FOR BUDGET INCREASES BUT THAT THIS IS A LONG PROCESS. WE WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH.

3. BORCHTCHEVSKI THEN RETURNED TO THE QUESTION OF ILO, PREFACING HIS REMARKS BY NOTING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD WHY THE US DID NOT WANT TO PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE IN DISCUSSION OF ILO BUDGETS. HE INFORMED US THAT ALL THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD MET WITH JOHN MCDONALD. BORCHTCHEVSKI WAS CONCERNED WITH TWO ASPECTS OF THE BUDGET: ITS USE OF THE 2.51 EXCHANGE RATE AND THE CHINESE CONTRIBUTION. WE DID NOT COMMENT.

4. WE HAVE INFORMED THE BRITISH CO-CHAIRMAN OF THIS CONVERSATION.CATTO

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